

Bureau of Reclamation Weather Station Finds a Home At Klickitat PUD

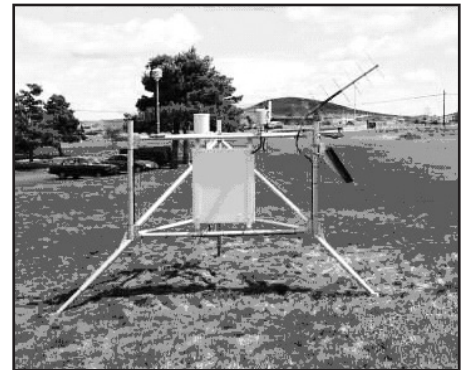
By Lori Froehlich

Have you noticed the strange-looking satellite device on Klickitat PUD's lawn? Situated in the southwest corner of the parking lot at the utility office in Goldendale is a weather station.

The weather station is telemetered hourly by satellite to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest regional office in Boise, Idaho.

The agricultural weather network is called AgriMet. It operates and maintains weather stations, and promotes energy and water conservation, in cooperation with other federal, state and local sponsors.

The station measures the weather parameters required to computer-model evapotranspiration—or crop water use—which helps farmers apply their irrigation techniques more scientifically.



A view of Goldendale's weather station looking east.



Klickitat PUD
Owned By Those It Serves

The Bureau of Reclamation's goal is water conservation, which leaves more water for other uses, such as hydropower, recreation, fish and wildlife, and endangered species.

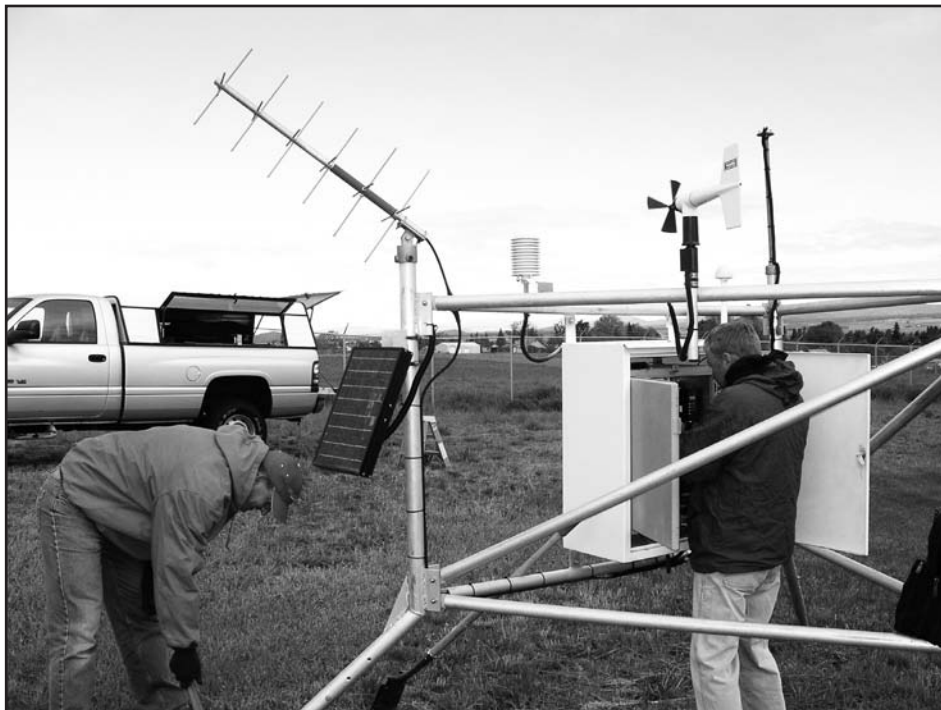
On May 21, two representatives from AgriMet were at the Goldendale Station performing annual maintenance and calibration.

Peter Palmer, AgriMet program coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Region, explained how the weather station operates and told about its history.

Klickitat PUD's weather station is one of 70 in the Pacific Northwest. It was installed in November 1991. The station is powered by a stand-alone battery, which is charged by solar power.

The weather station provides information that is updated hourly.

More information can be found on the AgriMet Web site: www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/agrimetmap/golwda.html. On the Web site, you can find data, forecasts and crop water use information that is a great resource for irrigators and anyone interested in agriculture. ■



Charles Allen, left, and Peter Palmer of AgriMet perform routine maintenance on the weather station on the grounds of the Klickitat PUD office in Goldendale.